Design Resource

Pavati Making - Bijapur

Colourful Head Gear

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Manmi Dutta
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/pavati-making-bijapur

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

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Introduction

An Indian tribe commonly known as Banjara or Lambani is found dwelling in the states of Andhra Pradesh, northern Karnataka and Maharashtra. The language spoken by the people of this tribe is said to be originated from Rajasthan. Bijapur of Karnataka is one such place where Banjara people has established their community. The Banjara people are widely famous for displaying their creativity through their colourful clothes and handmade jewellery. The dressing style of Banjara tribe is the most vibrant and decorative among the other tribal communities found in India. They are comfortable in wearing the outfits like "Ghagra "(Skirt) and "Choli"(a blouse). The Ghagra is a full length skirt made out of red, black and white cotton fabric, embroidered with square and round pieces of mirrored glass creating a decorative pattern accompanied with ethnic silver anklets.

The clothes worn by the Lambadi women are adorned with parts of mirror and jewels. The wonderful dress holds an ancient tradition of elaborating colours into various fabrics with unique mirror embroidery intricately crafted into the motifs. Basically there are fourteen types of stitches and thirteen colours used in Lambadi embroidery. Products made with such embroidery have wonderful patterns. These tribes are widely famous for their colourful dress, adornments and bangles along with traditional stiches.

Lambani women colourful costumes are considered to be the most vibrant among other tribes found in India. The Pavati (head gear), which covers the head, is long enough thus draping their shoulders to ones feet along with bone bangles and anklets. Ornaments has become an essential part of the Lambani tribe. The women decorate themselves with beautiful silver anklets and handmade traditional jewellery.

By sewing innumerable mirror pieces of various shapes and sizes into an alignment, these Lambani people creates an unusual piece of work along with their rainbow coloured fabrics. The Banjara people uses vibrant lively colours for their clothes which makes them unique and different from other tribes. Their traditional embroidery skills has made them reach a distinctive place in Indian art and culture.

Coins used in decorating the pavti, one of the common culture among lambani's.

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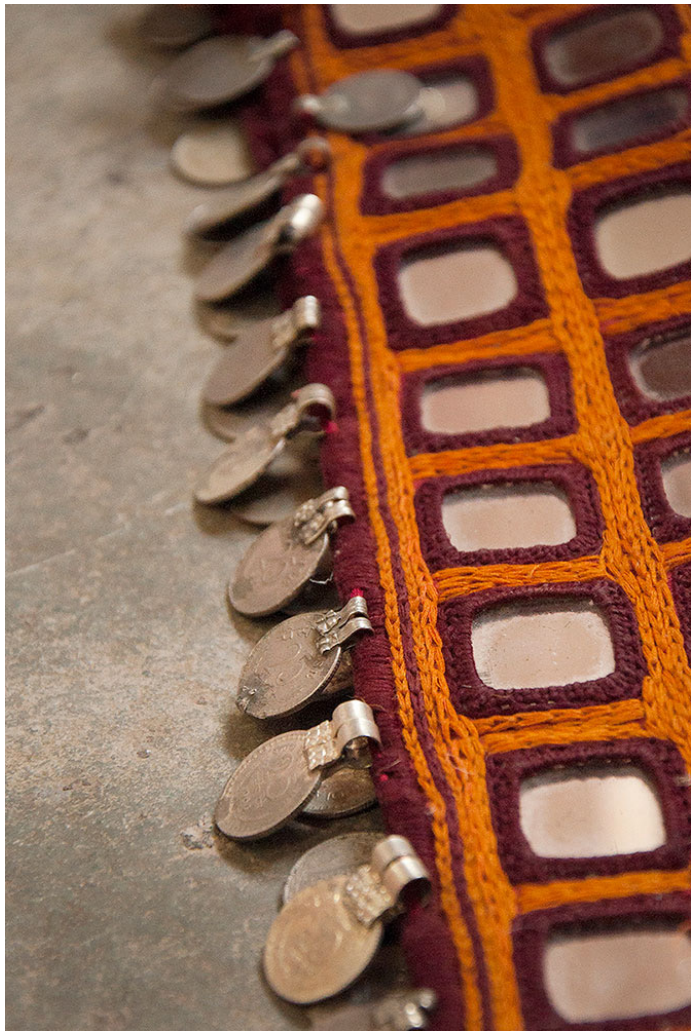
Women working on a horizontal cloth piece to make pavti.



A close up view of pavti, showing lambani embroidery, mirror and coin work.

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Women displaying a completed piece of pavti (head gear).

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required for pavati making:

Old Coins:
Old Coins are used as decorative jewellery piece which is attached to the cloth.

Cut Out Mirrors:
Diagonal or Square shaped Mirrors are embroidered into the designs.

Beads and Jewels:
Beads and jewels are used in decorating the designs.

Needles:
Needles helps in stitching the cut out cloth together to form a shape.

Threads:
Threads are used for sewing giving different patterns on the Pavati.

Unstitched Cloth:
Unstitched cloths of various designs are used for Pavati making.

Scissors:
Scissors are used in cutting of the required images.

Square cut mirrors, which are attached to the cloth using embroidery for its border.

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A common 25 paisa coin, on which a metal hinge is attached, which helps in sewing them together onto a cloth.

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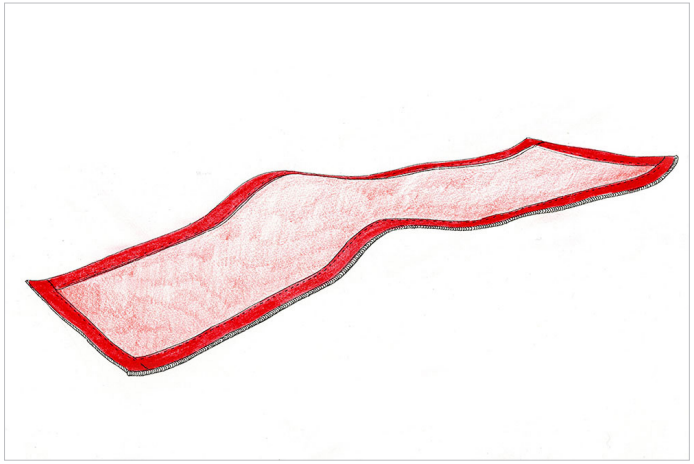
Bundle of thread, used to sew & make embroidery designs.

A needle used in stitching & embroidery.



A horizontal piece of cloth on which embroidery & attaching of mirror & Coin is done.

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Making Process

Delicate needle work embroidery sewed on different fabrics to create interesting patterns is prepared by the women folk of the tribe. This embroidery is done with a combination of different kinds of raw materials like mirrors, shells, buttons jewellery pieces and beads of different shapes. The contrasting colours used on their attire indicate their daily life. The main colours used are red and yellow, where red symbolizes marriage and yellow means life. Using complicated methods of stitching, the mirrors, beads, shells, jewellery piece etc are attached to the cloth, which is sewn into dresses, bags, pillow cases, wall hangings, table mats etc. This costume comprises of Lehenga, Choli and Odhni (headgear) locally called as Pavati.

Odhni (headgear) are exquisitely embroidered with bright coloured fabrics stitched with mirrors in a patchwork pattern. A patch of colourful fabric is cut out in shape and sewed in the ends to create a fine piece of fabric ready to be decorated. This fabric is ironed to uniform the creases. A pattern is been decided and mirrors of different shapes are divided and kept for the stitching. Beads and jewels are selected for the embroidery. Old coins are also used for ornamenting the hand stitched Odhni. They are stitched to the front part of the Odhni to create a decorative lace pattern. The main importance of the Odhni is the glitters of the mirrors, coins, beads and jewellery sewed to it.

Patchwork embroidery is a unique style of stitching patterns along with the attachments of mirrors, shells, metal jewellery which are all sewed into the fabric with colourful threads and needles. Different stitches are used to create various design patterns with embroidery square shaped mirror pieces attached with beads to embellish the fabric. Beautiful little embroidery stitches help in attaching the mirror pieces proportionally to the fabric. The craftsman creates a unique pattern with the various stitches which enhances the appearance of the fabric.

The patch of fabric is decorated with embroidered stitches and mirrors to create an authentic handcrafted piece of cloth which is further attached to the front part of the Odhni. The finished fabric is stitched to the front part of the Odhni. The Odhni is beautifully prepared and completed with creative patterns embroidered onto its surface of the fabric. Their clothes reflect their traditional culture from centuries which has been practiced from generations to generations.

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Flow Chart of Making Process:

1. With materials like mirrors, shells, buttons, jewellery pieces and beads of different shapes embroidery is done.

2. The main colours used are red and yellow, where red symbolizes marriage and yellow means life.

3. With complicated methods of stitching, the mirrors, beads, shells, jewellery piece etc are attached to the cloth, which is sewn into dresses, bags, pillow cases, wall hangings, table mats etc. This costume comprises of Lehenga, Choli and Odhni (headgear) locally called as Pavati.

4. Odhni (headgear) are exquisitely embroidered with bright coloured fabrics stitched with mirrors in a patchwork pattern.

5. A patch of colourful fabric is cut out in shape and sewed in the ends to create a fine piece of fabric ready to be decorated.

6. Old coins are also used for ornamenting the hand stitched Odhni.

7. The main importance of the Odhni is the glitters of the mirrors, coins, beads and jewellery sewed to it.

8. Patchwork embroidery is a unique style of stitching patterns along with the attachments of mirrors, shells, metal jewellery which are all sewed into the fabric with colourful threads and needles.

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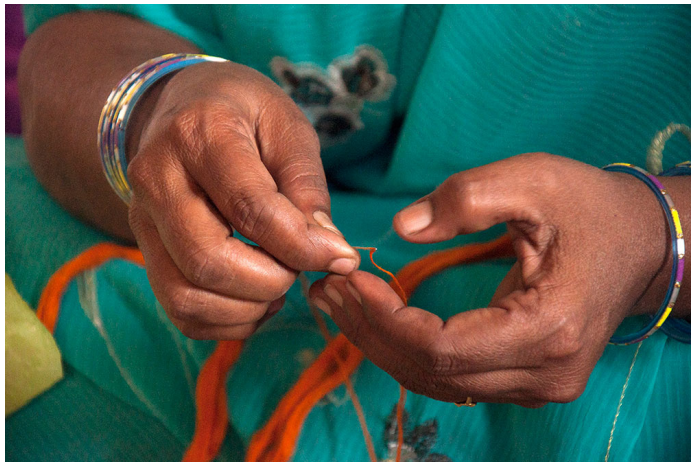

Round brush is used to paint on the bottle.

Artisan painting patterns on bottle using turquoise acrylic paint.

Artisan is drawing black outlines to make the bottle more interesting.

Warli designs are painted on bottle to fill up the white space.

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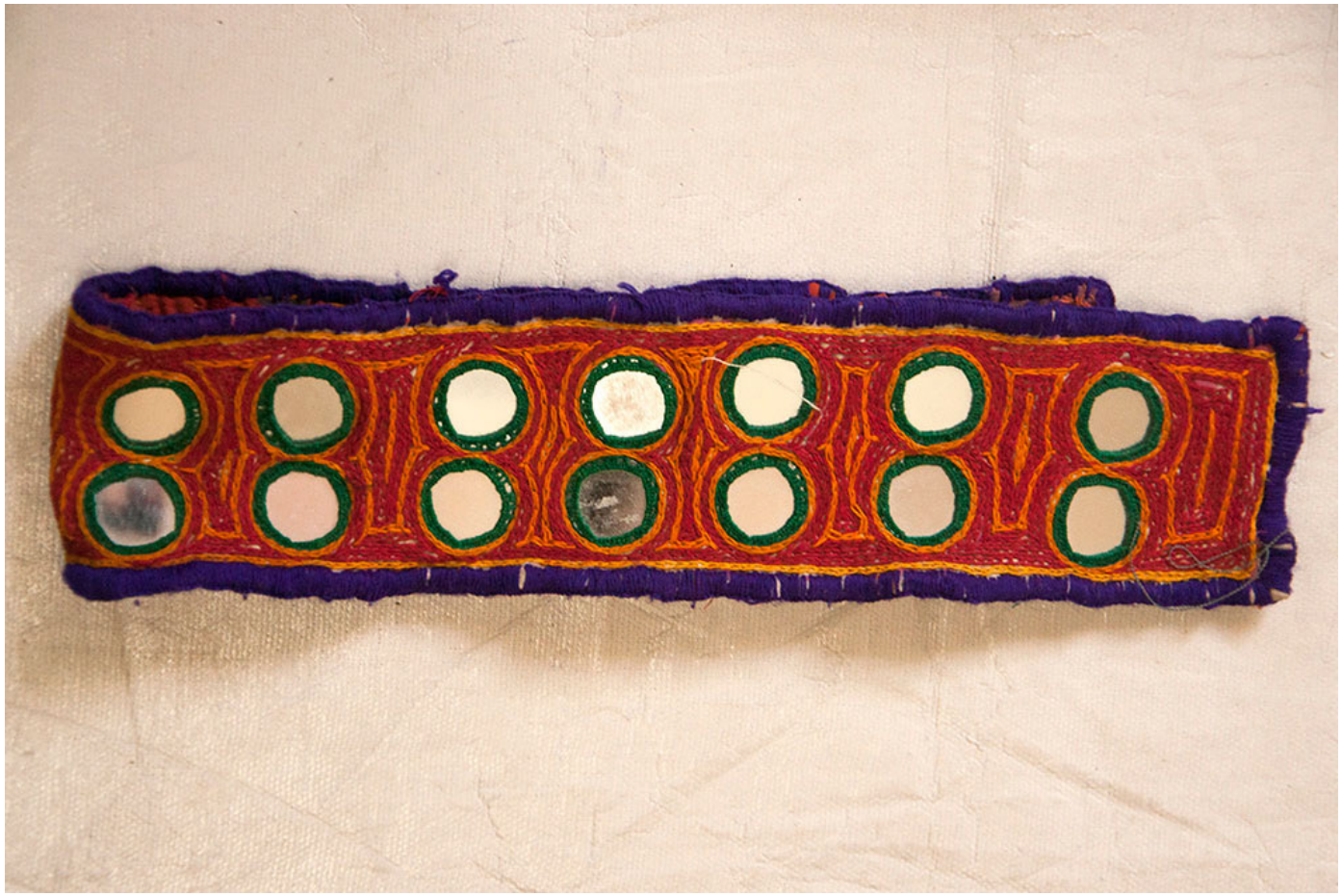
Products

Using the exquisite bold and bright colored embroidered patterns with the cut out mirrors the pavatis (head gear) are designed. Various Odhnis are created with different embroidery patterns and mirror work.



Head band (Pavati), with rounded mirrors.

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Pavati, with square mirrors and coins used, to decorate the lower end of the product.

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Pavati with alternate patterns of mirror, and varying shade in embroidery.

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